

Senate Resolution No. 15

Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Lowenthal

Relative to employment.

WHEREAS, Suburban San Diego is home to a rapidly growing biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry; and

WHEREAS, Coastal Los Angeles County is home to a vital and surging defense and aerospace industry; and

WHEREAS, The aerospace, defense, and biotechnology industries are responsible for America's leading-edge peacetime and military technologies, and having a stable, reliable corps of janitors to clean the facilities housing these industries increases security; and

WHEREAS, Working in poverty conditions creates no incentive to stay on the job and the resulting revolving door of workers leads to greater security risks for businesses that play a vital role in economic development and homeland security; and

WHEREAS, Businesses in these thriving biotechnology, defense, and aerospace industries outsource their janitorial work, and the 2,500 subcontracted janitors who clean those businesses' facilities take home about \$1,000 per month with no health care insurance; and

WHEREAS, Suburban San Diego janitors do not have health insurance while janitors working in other industries in downtown San Diego do have family health care insurance; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles defense and aerospace industry is the only major economic sector remaining in Los Angeles County where janitors do not have health insurance; and

WHEREAS, As a result, janitors working in these wealthy industries are often forced to make impossible choices between paying the rent, putting food on the table, or taking a sick child to the doctor; and

WHEREAS, The 2,500 janitors from these industries are united and are fighting for all janitors to be a part of a new union contract, derived from that which expired on May 31, 2005, and to raise health care standards in the new contract to be in line with downtown San

Diego and Los Angeles, other major California cities, and most of the high-technology industries in California; and

WHEREAS, Janitors in these industries used to be employed by the principal companies at high wages and high benefits; and

WHEREAS, Outsourcing these janitorial jobs has lowered the wages and eliminated the health care benefits in industries that are charged with defending American freedom and leading American innovation; and

WHEREAS, In consideration of company security and competence it is the policy of many of these companies that their employees have high standards of compensation and that these standards apply to their contractors; and

WHEREAS, Businesses in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, commercial real estate, high-technology, aerospace and defense industries in Southern California that do not ensure that the janitors who clean their facilities have health care insurance increase the burden on other San Diego and Los Angeles area taxpayers when these janitors and their children who are ill have nowhere to turn except to public health care services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate supports the janitors in their effort to obtain health care coverage for themselves and their families in their union contract; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourages businesses in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical, commercial real estate, and high-technology and defense industries in Southern California to tell their cleaning contractors that they will support family health care insurance for their contract janitors; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 15 read and adopted by the Senate June 27, 2005.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate